

Wireless Interoperability and Proof of Concept

RFP # 050R6800087

Questions and Answers, Set #2

Question 1. *Refers to question 5, Part II (of first set of questions sent by State dated November 18, 2005):* Are these sites to be imposed on the implementation Contractor(s), or are they meant (primary) to provide a basis for estimation of the cost for implementation?

Answer 1: Assuming the question is referring to the State's inventory of existing sites (316 in total), site references are meant to be the basis for implementation cost estimates.

Question 2: Task 4 – Develop Statewide Wireless Channel Plan.

4.1 The RFP makes no mention of performing a traffic loading analysis for voice and data wireless. This data allows estimation of the number of channels required and is normally a prerequisite for preparation of a channel plan for the use of available spectrum. Will the State be providing the loading data or estimates?

Answer 2: The State does not have loading data or estimates available. If this data is required to complete Task 4, the Contractor, as part of Task 2, is responsible for identifying the information necessary to satisfy all remaining project deliverables, and under Task 3, capture this data through documentation review and interviews.

Question 3. Refers to Task 5 – Develop System Detailed Design Document

5.1 Included in RFP Paragraph 2.5.3.2 is the development of detailed design. The "detailed design" is subject to considerable interpretation. Can the State be more exact regarding what is expected? Our interpretation is that the desired detail is that necessary to determine what technologies best satisfy the requirements. An extreme interpretation would include the preparation of equipment elevation and interconnect diagrams.

Answer 3: Answer 3: Section 2.5.3.2 Task 5 - Develop System Detailed Design Document has been re-written. Please see Amendment #3.

Question 4. Data Communications (P 10) - With respect to the State's intent to provide first responder voice and data communications, to what extent does the State intend to include high speed data, and/or broadband data in the project design and for what purposes?

Answer 4: The extent to which data communications is required will be documented in the Functional Requirements Document completed as Task 3. All data required to complete Task 3 is to be identified by the Contractor in Task 2, and captured under Task 3 through documentation review and interviews. The recommendations on how best to satisfy the requirements and which solution (i.e. high speed data and/or broadband data) is the responsibility of the Offeror and are to be documented in fulfillment of Task 5 of RFP.

Question 5: It is stated that in developing the Functional Requirements Document, requirements are to be categorized over a 0-5, 6-10 and 10+ years timeframe. Does the State commit to working with the Contractor to determine prioritization of applications into the three timeslots? Is so, how does the State envision the prioritization process?

Answer 5: The State is committed to the success of this project and will work with the Contractor to establish the criteria by which requirements are prioritized. One such methodology is:

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- Immediate (0 – 5 years): Those requirements that must be supported by the system in order to provide basic operational requirements. Without these requirements being satisfied, users cannot be migrated from legacy systems.
- Interim (6 – 10 years): Those requirements that, once the Immediate Requirements are satisfied, available resources would be directed towards satisfying. These requirements provide either a higher level of operational efficiency or customer service, but are not impediments to migrating users to the new systems and decommissioning of legacy systems. These requirements may be satisfied through baseline functionality of the proposed solution and become available upon initial system implementation.
- Long Term (10 + years): Those requirements that may materialize at some time in the future, or otherwise are considered insignificant to improving operational efficiencies or customer service delivery. If left unsatisfied there would be no material affect on service delivery, nor would using agencies missions be jeopardized

Question 6: Refers to Task 4: Has the State determined the number of users or the capacity requirements of the proposed network? Will this information be provided to the Contractor at NTP if available?

Answer 6: No. Based on the data collected in Phase I of the Contract, the State expects the Contractor to draw conclusions from the data in both Phases I and II to include this information in the “functional requirements document” the “statewide wireless channel plan” and the “system detailed design document” (Tasks 3-5).

Question 7. Refers to Task 8: Is the proof of concept site to include both a voice and data solution?

Answer 7: All immediate requirements (reference definitions provided in response to question 5 above) and any interim and/or long-term requirements available as a result of the baseline recommended solution, are to be included in the proof of concept.

Question 8: Refers to Task 8 in RFP: How many subscribers does the State envision participating simultaneously in the proof of concept site test? How many different agencies does the State anticipate participating simultaneously in the proof of concept site test?

Answer 8: The State envisions at least 100 users, from three to five agencies participating, simultaneously, in the proof of concept site test.

Question 9: Who will be the State's Project Manager (PM) for this project and how many people will staff this project?

Answer 9: The number of State people to staff this project and the State's PM will be established on or before execution of the Contract.

Question 10: The expected completion dates for specific tasks in the RFP do not reflect best practices for projects of this type. Can the contractor propose modified completion dates for those tasks to bring them in line with best practices, thereby reducing the overall risk to the project?

Answer 10: Your assertion that the schedule would violate best practices is not supported by facts or specifics. If you have any input where you feel the State's specification is in error, please tell us what you think the error is and why you believe it is so. If your input has merit, the State will consider an amendment, however please

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recognize the sequence of tasks in the RFP is very basic and focuses on reaching an end result described in the RFP. Normally, it is incumbent upon Offerors to propose the resources necessary to meet the schedule, whatever they might be.

Question 11: What incentives might the State offer to manufacturers to make a business case to provide equipment and labor at no cost to the State for each of the proof of concept validation sites?

Answer 11: None will be offered, however the proof of concept represents an opportunity for a manufacturer who is not involved in the design of a network or system to showcase its technology to the State.

Question 12. With regard to the development of a Statewide Wireless Channel Plan, will the State provide the contractor with detailed information (i.e. current voice and data message/application models, "talk group" configurations, call traffic data, etc.) required to adequately build a channel plan?

Answer 12. If this data is required to complete Task 4, the Contractor, as part of Task 2, is responsible for identifying the information necessary to satisfy all remaining project deliverables, and under Task 3 capture this data through documentation review and interviews.

Question 13. Will the State provide information regarding anticipated radio system user base growth projections? (i.e. demographic and radio usage growth projections)

Answer 13. If this data is required to complete any deliverable, the Contractor, as part of Task 2, is responsible for identifying the information necessary to satisfy all remaining project deliverables, and under Task 3 capture this data through documentation review and interviews

Question 14: Has the 700 MHz frequency plan been approved for the State? If not when is final approval anticipated?

Answer 14: Although this information is not needed to respond to this proposal, final approval date for the 700 MHz frequency plan is slated for April 7, 2009. (See amendment #3)

Question 15: Does the State have an identified list of "soon to be available" technologies that they want included in this analysis?

Answer 15: The Contractor is responsible to identify technologies that best meet the requirements of the State. These technologies should not be limited only to solutions currently available on the market. The Contractor should also consider technologies and solutions that meet the State's requirements that may soon (6 – 12 months) be commercially available.

Question 16: If task & recommended site selection is a component, has the State considered that most major system providers will not guarantee RF coverage unless they have a significant role in site selection?

Answer 16: Yes. It is expected that as part of Task 7, the Contractor will have engaged potential solution providers to ensure coverage requirements are satisfied for the recommended site(s). The actual coverage will be negotiated with the ultimate solution provider on a site-by-site basis.

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Question 17: In a similar fashion, (*similar to question 16 above*) a “detailed”, as opposed to a “conceptual” system design is being requested. A detailed design document is normally vendor/technology specific and thus is typically provided by the system vendor and reviewed by the consultant. The consultant’s role is typically to develop the system requirements and to then evaluate the proposer’s (*Offeror’s*) compliance with those requirements and the system’s functional demands. In this case, does the State desire that the consultant develop the detailed system design, or is it the State’s intention that a conceptual design be developed with a detailed design only for the proof of concept site?

Answer 17: Please refer to Amendment # 3 and to answer # 3 in this set of Questions and Answers.

Question 18. The State is looking for a system solution that is "interoperable in itself". Does this mean that you're looking for statewide 700MHz system whereby, agencies across the state will be able to communicate with one another using a common 700MHz frequency? In other words, do you plan on replacing all your other systems (VHF, UHF, LB, 800) with a 700MHz system?

Answer 18: The State is requesting a Contractor to meet the requirements of the RFP in support of a future Statewide 700MHz system that will permit all agencies across the State to be able to communicate with one another. The RFP does not consider any existing radio systems or interoperability with those systems, and is not considering replacing these systems.

Question 19: Please provide a comprehensive list of stakeholders including agencies and departments. This is necessary to accurately scope the needs assessment effort.

Answer 19: Section 2.2.4 identifies the stakeholders referenced throughout the RFP.

Question 20: Could the State provide clarification of how the existing LMR's will utilize the proposed wireless network?

Answer 20: Existing radio systems are not part of this RFP and the integration of existing equipment into the new radio system is not required under this RFP

Question 21: Could the State provide a list of potential applications that will use the proposed wireless network?

Answer 21: Potential applications will be identified by the selected vendor (Contractor), as part of the process of gathering the functional requirements. The Contractor, as part of Task 2, is responsible for identifying the information necessary to satisfy all remaining project deliverables, and under Task 3, capture this data through documentation review and interviews.

Question 22, Part I: There was a discussion around pricing related to questions 35,36, and 37 (where the Contractor may have to purchase certain equipment that may not be donated as originally envisioned). Will there be an amendment to the RFP in this regard and if so when can we expect it?

Answer 22 Part I: The State hereby rescinds the answers to questions 35, 36 and 37 (located in first set of Questions and Answers #1 dated November 18, 2005). The answer to question 22 in this document is as follows:

The RFP will not be amended at this time with regard to pricing Tasks 8 and 9 of the RFP. The State is requesting that the Contractor provide the following activities identified in Tasks 8 and 9 of the RFP: to equip, install and make operational a proof of concept

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site(s), at no cost to the State, with regard to these solution components: hardware, software, ancillary equipment, and engineering and technical resources.

The costs of the abovementioned solution components should not be included in the financial proposal response to the RFP. This means that once the Contractor identifies the recommended solution, the Contractor then shall pursue the manufacturer to obtain the hardware, at no cost to the State. It is important to note that the State will *not* take possession of hardware, software, ancillary equipment, engineering and technical resources; rather any agreements will be between the Contractor and the manufacturer.

Question 23, Part II: Also, has there been any discussion of extending the due date on the RFP to accommodate this change?

Answer 23, Part II: Please see amendment #2 dated Friday, November 18, 2005, changing the proposal due date to **December 12, 2005** at 2:00 PM.

Question 24: What is the State's expectation regarding the backhaul design of the new network?

Answer 24: Please refer to Amendment #3 and answer #3 in this set of Questions and Answers Set #2.